

90. *Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen on the Birds of Austria-Hungary.*

[Ornithologische Collectaneen aus Österreich-Ungarn und dem Occupationsgebiete. Von Vict. Ritter v. Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen. Ornith. Jahrb. viii. p. 24.]

Ritter v. Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen is always active in the ornithological field of Austria and Hungary. He now gives us notices of various occurrences of the rarer species. A nest of *Nucifraga caryocatactes pachyrhynchus* was obtained in the Kremsthal, in Carinthia, last year, and a Flamingo (*Phœnicopterus roseus*) was captured alive near Olmütz, in Moravia.

XXXVI.—*Obituary.*—Heer A. A. VAN BEMMELEN,
Sir EDWARD NEWTON, and Mr. A. D. BARTLETT.

ADRIAAN ANTHONY VAN BEMMELEN, lately Director of the Zoological Gardens, Rotterdam, was born Nov. 3rd, 1831, at Almelo, in Holland, and was educated at Leiden. From his youth upwards he was always fond of natural history, and at the age of seventeen commenced to attend the academical lessons in zoology, botany, and anatomy at Leiden, and to work at the collections in the Zoological Museum, where Temminck was then Director, and Schlegel, Herklots, Snellen van Vollenhoven, and Finsch were members of the staff. With all these zoologists he was on excellent terms, and on the 1st of July, 1859, was named a Second-class Assistant at the Museum, and in 1865 promoted to be First-class Assistant. In this position he remained until the year 1866, when he was selected to be Director of the Rotterdam Zoological Gardens, succeeding there the famous lion-tamer Martin. Ever since the accession of Van Bemmelen the Rotterdam Gardens, notwithstanding many difficulties that had to be surmounted, have constantly progressed in a favourable direction. The collection of living animals has considerably

increased, and the accommodation provided for housing them has been greatly improved. Among the most important new houses may be mentioned the large aviary for Waders and Gulls, the Small-birds' House, and a fine new house for the large Carnivora. The botanical collection has also been considerably increased, and many fine glasshouses have been erected under Van Bemmelen's directorship.

Van Bemmelen was an excellent field-naturalist, and many were the specimens which he collected in the neighbourhood of Leiden to enrich the Native-Fauna Collection of the Museum. The results of his observations were mostly published in Dutch scientific periodicals, especially in the 'Bouwstoffen van een Fauna van Nederland,' where he gave, among other contributions, lists of the fishes, mammals, and reptiles of the Netherlands. He also wrote many interesting articles on the birds of his native country, on the migration of insects, and on the animals that had lived in the Rotterdam Zoological Gardens. Dr. Finsch, at the end of the preface to his celebrated monograph of the Parrots, writes:—

“Zum Schluss möge mir mein lieber Freund und früherer College am Leidener Reichs-Museum, Herr A. A. van Bemmelen, gestatten ihm den aufrichtigsten Dank öffentlich auszusprechen, für die wichtigen Aufschlüsse über einzelne Arten und Exemplare des Leidener Museums.”

Van Bemmelen died suddenly on the 8th January, 1897. His successor as Director of the Rotterdam Zoological Gardens is Dr. J. Büttikofer, lately Assistant at the Leiden Zoological Museum, and well known to many of us.

SIR EDWARD NEWTON, M.A., K.C.M.G., F.L.S., C.M.Z.S.—
By the death of Sir Edward Newton the British Ornithologists' Union has lost another of its founders and original Members, one of the eight who formulated the idea of the Union and of 'The Ibis,' and who combined to make the original twenty, to which number the B.O.U. was for some time strictly limited. Edward, the youngest son of William Newton, Esq., formerly M.P. for Ipswich, was born at his father's seat, Elveden Hall, Norfolk, on the 10th of

Nov., 1832, and died at Lowestoft on the 25th of April last. Very early in life he developed his innate love for ornithology, stimulated doubtless by the example and companionship of his elder brother Alfred, and at the age of 12 years penned his first published paper on the subject, which appeared in the 'Zoologist' for 1845 (p. 1024), showing that at that early age he knew his Yarrell, and also his Bewick and Montagu. Delicate health as a boy necessitated his education being conducted chiefly at home, a circumstance most fortunate for the development of his zoological tastes. For several years after his first essay he continued to contribute notes to the 'Zoologist,' chiefly on the arrivals of migrants and on nidification at Elveden and elsewhere, and was becoming an adept at discovering birds'-nests. This power he obtained by close observation of the habits of the different species, and no warrener could surpass him in the way in which, by watching the birds, he could find their nests or make them show him where their nests were. This he did as a true naturalist, for the love of watching his favourites and learning their ways, much more than with the object of taking their eggs. The writer well remembers, when, in later years, during a walk with him, Sir Edward suddenly turned round and stood still. On being asked what was the matter, he replied, "Do you not see that Stonechat in the bush ahead? She has a nest, and we will find it. Do not face her." He stood sideways for some minutes, but never lost sight of the bird, and presently walked on straight to the spot, where, at once, he showed the nest with eggs. He was the best field-naturalist the writer ever knew, as regards the actions and movements of any bird. It seemed to be with him a sort of instinct.

Newton proceeded in due course to Magdalene College, Cambridge, where he graduated B.A. in 1857, all the while extending his knowledge, especially of the inhabitants of the marshes accessible from Cambridge. The next year he visited the paternal estates in the West Indies, and was in the island of St. Croix from 4th March to 28th Sept., 1858. The results of this visit are recorded in a series of four

admirable papers in 'The Ibis' (vol. i. 1859), written in conjunction with his brother, Prof. A. Newton, papers which bespeak the true naturalist in their every line, and which we can only wish were followed by writers who seem to think nothing further is needed than a diagnosis of the species and its dimensions.

In 1859 Newton entered the Colonial Service, being appointed Assistant Colonial Secretary of Mauritius. The avifauna of the Mascarene Islands was then scarcely known in Europe, and had remained neglected since the days of Buffon. Keen anticipations were entertained by his brother naturalists that Edward Newton, if he might not resuscitate the Dodo, would at least throw some light on its history, and they were not disappointed. His official career was as follows:—Auditor-General of Mauritius 1863; Colonial Secretary of Mauritius 1868–77; Lieut.-Governor and Colonial Secretary of Jamaica 1877–83. He several times administered the Government both of Mauritius and Jamaica. He became C.M.G. in 1875, and K.C.M.G. in 1887.

During his long residence in Mauritius Newton made several distant expeditions. His first was to Round Island, of which he gave an interesting account in 'The Ibis' (1861, p. 180). In Sept. 1861 he was sent on an official visit to King Radama of Madagascar to congratulate him on his accession, being the first Englishman to enter Antananarivo for many years. The ornithological results of this expedition were recorded in 'The Ibis' for 1862, pp. 94 & 265. In the autumn of the following year (1863) he paid a second visit to Madagascar, not officially, but solely for the purpose of ornithology, of which the history will be found in 'The Ibis' (1863), pp. 333 *et seqq.*, 452 *et seqq.* In Nov. 1864 he made an expedition to Rodriguez, which yielded rich results, as recorded by him in 'The Ibis' (1865, p. 116), 'Reports' of the British Association (1865, p. 92), and 'Philosophical Transactions' (Transit volume, 1869). In the spring of 1867 he visited the Seychelles, where he discovered a number of new and unsuspected species, which he described in P. Z. S.

1867, pp. 344, 821, and 'The Ibis,' 1867, pp. 335 *et seqq.* Though he never had an opportunity of visiting Anjuan or any of the Comoros, yet he contributed largely to our knowledge of their avifaunas by inducing Mr. Bewsher to visit them and collect. His notes on them will be found in P. Z. S. 1877, p. 295.

To summarize his work while officially resident in Mauritius, not fewer than 27 new species of living birds were brought to our knowledge by him from the Mascarene Islands, Madagascar, and the Comoros; but he was wholly indifferent as to who described them, so long as this was properly done. No less than 10 of these were from the Seychelles. Fifteen of his discoveries were named by his brother, Dr. Hartlaub, and others. In his Presidential Address to the Norfolk Naturalists' Society (1888), Sir Edward gave an admirable popular summary of the avifauna of the Mascarenes, with picturesque descriptions of the extinct species, so far as can be ascertained, and vivid sketches of the physical character of the islands. The address is replete with warnings that like causes are bringing about, though in a slower degree, like results in our own island, and he points out how the danger may possibly be averted. It is much to be regretted that this address has not been republished in some more permanent form.

In Jamaica his official duties were incessant and harassing, while his health, already severely tried in Mauritius, began to be seriously affected by the climate. He had little or no time for researches, and could but rarely leave his post. Nevertheless he did what he could. He made an almost complete collection of the birds of the island, and the "List of the Birds of Jamaica," published in the 'Handbook of Jamaica,' 1881, p. 103, adds not a little to the standard work of Gosse.

Newton's investigations of the extinct fauna of the Mascarenes claim special notice. It is not easy to state precisely what we owe him in the way of discovery of extinct species. To his care and encouragement was largely owing the success of Mr. Clarke in the original researches in the Mare aux Songes, where the great find of Dodo-remains was effected.

There were several species from Rodriguez described by Milne-Edwards, and again by Newton and Dr. Günther in the Transit volume of the Phil. Trans., and by Newton and Gadow in an article on the remains discovered in Mauritius by Sauzier (Trans. Z. S. xiii. p. 281, 1893). Newton was certainly the first to recognize among the bones from the Mare aux Songes those of *Aphanapteryx*, which he instantly referred to the bird just previously described by Fraucnfeld from the old Vienna picture.

For the last five years his health was perceptibly declining. Yet, though always more or less of an invalid, his interest in the pursuits of his more vigorous days never flagged, as witness the paper last referred to. The unselfish modesty which marked all his natural-history work was equally conspicuous in his daily life. His whole nature was the very opposite of self-asserting. There was a delightful charm in the simplicity and genuineness of the man, which won the hearts of all who knew him well; and looking back on a friendship of forty years, the writer can but feel it to have been a high privilege to have known one in whose character were blended all the qualities that go to make the careful, truthful naturalist, and the refined Christian gentleman.

ABRAHAM DEE BARTLETT, the well-known Superintendent of the Gardens of the Zoological Society, London, died at his official residence in the Regent's Park on the 7th of May last, at the age of nearly 85 years. The late Mr. Bartlett was born in London on the 27th of October, 1812, the second son of John and Jane Bartlett, and was brought up in his father's trade as a bird-stuffer and dealer in natural-history specimens. As regards birds, Bartlett soon became a master of his art, and through the greater period of his life was engaged by his friends and correspondents when choice specimens, or such as wanted special care and attention, were to be mounted. He was also possessed of a very accurate knowledge of British birds, and often supplied Vigors, Yarrell, Gould, and other authorities of that period with specimens and information. As early as 1839 Bartlett brought before the Zoological Society his discovery of a new British species

of Goose—the Pink-footed Goose—then quite unknown to British naturalists, although it subsequently turned out to have been previously described on the Continent. He became likewise well known for his life-sized model of the Dodo, which was exhibited in the Great Exhibition of 1851. About 1853, when the Crystal Palace was moved from Hyde Park to Sydenham, Bartlett was appointed Superintendent of the Natural History Division of the new institution. After a short period of office there, he was selected, in the autumn of 1859, to fill a vacancy in the office of Superintendent of the Zoological Society's Gardens, and continued in the efficient performance of his duties until his death. In his practical knowledge of living animals, and as regards the best mode of treating them in confinement, Bartlett was, perhaps, unrivalled. No one knew better than he whether an animal was sound or sick, or was a more accurate judge of its value when offered for sale.

He was also an excellent and careful observer of the habits and structure of the animals under his charge, and from time to time read many valuable papers at the Meetings of the Zoological Society upon these subjects. Altogether upwards of 30 papers from Bartlett's pen on birds alone will be found in the 'Proceedings' of the Zoological Society from 1839 to 1887, besides many more relating to other branches of the Animal Kingdom. Amongst those relating to birds, we may call attention to the following as being perhaps of special interest:—

- On a new British Species of the Genus *Anser* (*Anser phœnicopus*).
P. Z. S. 1839, p. 2.
- Description of a new Species of *Fuligula* (*Fuligula ferinoides*). P. Z. S.
1847, p. 48.
- On the Genus *Apteryx*. P. Z. S. 1850, p. 274.
- On some Bones of *Didus*. P. Z. S. 1851, p. 280.
- Indications of the Existence of a Second Species of Emeu (*Dromæus*).
P. Z. S. 1859, p. 205.
- Notes on the Reproduction of the Australian Wattle-bird (*Talegalla
lathamii*) in the Society's Gardens. P. Z. S. 1860, p. 426.
- On the Affinities of *Balaniceps*. P. Z. S. 1861, p. 131.
- Note on the Habits and Affinities of the Kagu (*Rhinochetus jubatus*).
P. Z. S. 1862, p. 218.

- Remarks upon the Breeding of the Rufous Tinamou (*Rhynchotis rufescens*) in the Society's Menagerie. P. Z. S. 1867, p. 687.
- On the Incubation of the Apteryx. P. Z. S. 1868, p. 329.
- Remarks upon the Habits of the Hornbills (*Buceros*). P. Z. S. 1869, p. 142.
- Remarks upon the Habits and Change of Plumage of Humboldt's Penguin. P. Z. S. 1879, p. 6.
- Remarks upon the Habits of the Darter (*Plotus ankinga*). P. Z. S. 1881, p. 247.
- Remarks upon the Moulting of the Great Bird of Paradise. P. Z. S. 1887, p. 392.

Bartlett left behind him two sons, both of whom inherit their father's tastes and follow similar pursuits. Mr. Edward Bartlett, well known from his collecting-expeditions in South America and elsewhere, has just returned to England, after a lengthened service as Curator of Rajah Brooke's Museum at Kuching, Sarawak, Borneo. Mr. Clarence Bartlett was for twenty-four years Assistant-Superintendent of the Zoological Society's Gardens, and has now succeeded to his father's post.

We have also to announce, with much regret, the recent death of another Member of the British Ornithologists' Union—Mr. Charles Bygrave Wharton. We hope to give a notice of this gentleman in our next number.

XXXVII.—*Letters, Extracts, Notices, &c.*

WE have received the following letters, addressed "to the Editors of 'The Ibis'":—

SIRS,—A cruise in the Levant for six weeks does not afford many opportunities for observing and noting ornithological facts, but the following notes may possibly interest some students of migration.

On the 16th of this month (March) we struck camp and started at daybreak to ride down the little-known pass from Bethel to Jericho. Just after sunrise, on the brow of the ridge, which looks down 3600 feet into the Jordan Valley, we observed a flock of White Storks circling and wheeling